



Devoted: 38 Extraordinary Tales of Love, Loyalty, and Life With Dogs

Rebecca Ascher-Walsh

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Unlikely Friendships meets *Marley and Me*. In this heartwarming gift book, author Rebecca Ascher-Walsh presents a collection of inspiring dog stories and touching photos--dogs who comfort veterans, dogs who learn to surf, dogs who detect cancer, and dogs who save the day: Each one is devoted. These 38 uplifting dog stories showcase the most amazing dog rescues, accomplishments, and abilities that fascinate us and touch our hearts.

Devoted: 38 Extraordinary Tales of Love, Loyalty, and Life With Dogs Details

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Author : Rebecca Ascher-Walsh

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From Reader Review Devoted: 38 Extraordinary Tales of Love, Loyalty, and Life With Dogs for online ebook

Debbie says

Devoted is a small book with 38 short stories about dogs and their devotion to humans. The focus of the book is dogs working to make life better for the humans they serve – veterans, the disabled, the elderly and children with learning disabilities. I liked that this book included a broad selection of dog breeds, not the usual golden retrievers and Labrador retrievers as service dogs. The stories included Pomeranians, chow chows, Yorkshire terriers, greyhounds, mastiffs, and of course, many mixed breeds. At the end of each story, there was a summary of information about the dog breed.

I would describe this as a “feel good” book about dogs that will make any dog lover smile and get teary-eyed at some of the stories. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Ginny says

Part of the problem with this book was the E-book format. There are, what I assume would be sidebars in a print book, but in the e-book they pop up in the middle of the story. Very annoying. The stories themselves, while showing the great character of dogs are not fully developed. This was a disappointing read for me.

Shazza Maddog says

A sweet photo book about dogs who are devoted to their people, and people who are devoted to their dogs. A lot of these dogs I recognize from online articles, but there are also those I'd never heard of, which makes me happy.

This doesn't give you ideas on how to choose a dog, or train a dog, it's just a lovely little 'feel good' chapbook, pretty much as it appears on the cover.

Kavita says

‘Devoted: 38 Extraordinary Tales of Love, Loyalty, and Life with Dogs’ by Rebecca Ascher Walsh is a beautiful book on all counts: beautiful stories beautifully written, with beautiful photographs on thick quality paper. It's as lovely to look at as it is to read which I'd advise you to do with your own angel nearby.

And yes, keep the tissues handy as you read about dogs that comfort the terminally ill and the abused, perform heroic feats in service to mankind, even rescue their owners from suicide with little more than a look or a brush of their nose. At other times, the tears may come from laughter as you read about surfing dogs and skydiving dogs.

Walsh also provides informative sidebars throughout explaining the differences between various breeds of

dogs, how to care for your dog, as well as dog trivia.

Devoted is unbelievably powerful, heart warming, tender and worth a few thousand rereads, especially during the dark times of life. It's a must-read-again-n-again kind of book.

Mary Sheppard says

It deserves 2.5 stars. The stories are sweet but a bit boring.

Christopher says

If you have any reservations about canine companionship, this book will obliterate them. Dogs can not only be trained to complete tasks, but can train an attentive owner to better utilize the range of their abilities. Yes the breed affects what tasks each might be better suited to, but each animal is an amazing individual full of surprises - not the least of which is the ability to love and understand emotions.

Of course I would be remiss to mention that part of the reason I purchased this book is because I am well acquainted with DeeDee - who keeps my adult daughter safe. The other 37 stories were just as compelling in this well researched book. It may not be an exhaustive study of the subject, but this Nat-Geo book should be a welcome addition to any personal library.

Brenda Kahn says

Not giving this one a rating b/c I read it with my ears and it was meh. Repetitive, pedestrian with some touching moments. Plus the narrator did nothing to set the book apart. I ordered the book through ILL since I'm sure there must be pictures that would endear me. Plus, if I had read with my eyes, the repetitiveness would not have been as apparent since I would not have read it straight through the way I did with the audio.

Rachel N. says

A series of short stories, none longer than 4 pages, about dogs doing extraordinary things such as detecting cancer and performing search missions. I enjoyed the stories. Some of the side facts got a bit repetitive. I think the author ran out of ways to state how much more a dog can smell than a human can. Good if you want a short read of feel good stories and like dogs.

Mary (BookHounds) says

This is a wonderful book filled with heart-warming tales about dog and the people they rescue. In each little story, complete with amazing photographs of the dog, you find that sometimes the people need more rescuing than the animal. The stories that really get to me are the ones about vets and how these dogs help

them recover from PTSD. There is such a calming effect that just having a dog around to pet and it helps people so much in stressful times. Each dog and person had difficulties to overcome but found a way through each other.

Linda says

This book is hard for me to warm up to. Some of the stories are shallow and maudlin. One story is about a man who wrestles an alligator for his terrier. I'm supposed to bond with a person who lets his little dog play by the water unsupervised in Florida? You should NEVER allow small children and dogs to play at the water's edge here. It's neglect. As a long-time dog owner, I wanted to like this book, but it's lame.

Sarai says

This book looks a lot like other books which have heartwarming stories about animal friendships (see True Love) or the relationships between people and animals. I expected this to be another of those books, and I was hoping to take it on a school visit to talk to middle school kids about it, but it's not. The first story is about a war vet who gets a puppy and then thinks about killing himself and the dog stops him. There were a couple of stories like that in this book. While very powerful, not really middle school appropriate.

I actually found this book to be a bit wrenching. It's a good book with interesting and amazing stories but it did drain me a bit. Not for someone who wants a lighthearted, funny read.

From Amazon:

Unlikely Friendships meets Marley and Me. In this heartwarming gift book, author Rebecca Ascher-Walsh presents a collection of inspiring dog stories and touching photos--dogs who comfort veterans, dogs who learn to surf, dogs who detect cancer, and dogs who save the day: Each one is devoted. These 38 uplifting dog stories showcase the most amazing dog rescues, accomplishments, and abilities that fascinate us and touch our hearts.

Jacket description:

Dogs have long been our loyal companions, but sometimes the connection we share with them transcends that of playmate and caretaker. Devoted tells the stories of dogs who are rescued, and who rescue in return. Meet Lily, an adopted pit bull who stood in front of an oncoming train to protect her fallen owner; or Faith, a chow chow mix who defied the odds to learn how to walk on two legs. From across the globe, each inspiring tale brings to light unparalleled displays of fortitude, faith, and love.

Jami says

This was a fast and fun read. I enjoyed the stories of the individual dogs, some of whom I had already heard of through their own full-length books (i.e., Faith, Ricochet, and Chaser). I also liked how the author included a short blurb with the description of each breed mentioned in the particular story. This type of book lends itself well to the audio format, as each individual story was short so you could stop and start it without loss of continuity of the story line.

DIANA ROCKWELL says

Loving Dogs

How can anyone not love a dog? If you don't love dogs before you read this you will after you read it. I breed and show dogs and they are truly a gift from God. I think this book would motivate any one to get a purebred or a mixed breed. I cannot imagine life without a dog.

Nikki Wilde says

WOW. Just wow. I can't even put into words. The dogs in these stories truly are heroes. I read this every single morning on the way to work for a week. Every single morning I bawled my eyes out. I tried everything to not cry, I'd look up, I'd try to think of something else, nothing worked. The stories are not even written sentimentally. They're just honest fact telling stories of truly amazing dogs. The bonds they can have with people and how truly astounding they are.

It makes me want to run out and adopt more. I want them all. One story that really struck home was that of Lily. The pit bull that put herself between her owner and a train. I remember reading this story in the papers. It happened not that far from where I lived and I was struck then but how extraordinary pets are.

Just reading these short glimpses into a small handful of pets makes me wonder how many more stories that are out there of pets that have helped others or saved lives or even put their own lives before their families. You can't help but be touched by this.

What choked me up the most was the artist... I don't want to ruin it and this book was not meant to be sad. It's inspiring and I hope dog lovers alike will read this and enjoy them as much as I did.

Jami says

This is a must read for all dog lovers. They will warm your heart and bring a tear to your eye. The relationship between us and our four-legged buddies never ceases to amaze me. As a bonus, Ascher-Walsh includes lots of great trivia. Even I learned things I didn't know about dogs. This may just have to be added to my shelves at home.
